

vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, will the Senate advise and consent to the Bailey and Parekh nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO JAN BARAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I want to extend congratulations and best wishes to a friend, a skilled attorney in the areas of campaign finance and election law, and a devoted defender of the First Amendment.

After more than 35 years, Jan Witold Baran is retiring from the law firm Wiley Rein LLP at the end of the month. Throughout his distinguished career, Jan has successfully represented thousands of clients, including me. He has put his brilliance to work defending all Americans' rights to participate in our democracy and express themselves through voluntary contributions to the candidates of their choice, so that a few elite gatekeepers cannot control the public discourse in our country.

When you consider Jan's background, it is no surprise he is committed to preserving freedom. Jan was born in postwar Europe to a Flemish mother and Polish Catholic father. Before Jan was born, his father had survived 2½ years in concentration camps including Auschwitz, before he was liberated by American troops at Dachau. Jan's father was incarcerated because during his tenure as mayor of a small town in Poland, he refused to turn in his rifle to the Gestapo. Clearly a stubborn dedication to freedom under law is in Jan's bloodline.

Next year will mark the 70th anniversary of the Baran family's immigration to America. I am sure his parents would be extremely proud of what their son has accomplished. A decorated scholar from Vanderbilt Law School; general counsel for the National Republican Congressional Committee; a trailblazing attorney at the FEC; general counsel to the 1988 campaign of President George H. W. Bush; counsel to the Republican National Committee.

President Bush appointed him to the Commission on Federal Ethics Law Reform and as Ambassador and Chairman of the U.S. Delegation to the World Administrative Radio Conference.

Jan Baran has been an integral part of legal teams that have defended Americans' political speech rights before the U.S. Supreme Court. He was part of my team when I challenged the constitutionality of the campaign finance law known as McCain-Feingold. From *McConnell v. FEC* to *Citizens United* and beyond, Jan was in the middle of these important battles. Through these episodes and many more, I personally have witnessed and appreciated Jan's candor, sharp legal mind, and strategic thinking.

Washington can be a transient place, but Mr. Baran has stayed in the fray for more than 40 years and given his best every day to uphold free speech and defend the Republic. I am not sure if the people of that small town in Poland know that the son of their wartime mayor's son built such a distinguished career in just one generation. His talent, perseverance, and commitment to his country are a credit to where Jan came from and the life he has led along the way. I extend my warm wishes to him and his wife Kathryn, their four children, sons-in-law, and grandchildren.

MOZAMBIQUE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to call attention to the rapidly burgeoning Islamist insurgency in northern Mozambique, which is dragging that country into ever-increasing violence and chaos. In the past decade, Mozambique has taken steps to resolve a decades-long civil war and while peace remains elusive, with longstanding support from the United States, there has been progress. This progress, when coupled with the 2010 discovery of enormous natural gas reserves in the remote northern province of Cabo Delgado, could have changed the development course of the country. But a new conflict has emerged in Mozambique that threatens all of the potential gains for the citizens of the province and the entire country.

The origins of this extremist insurgency share traits with many others globally: a marginalized community's grievance against corrupt and distant rulers, fueled and brutally exploited by radical Islamist ideologues, has allowed extremism to take root and gain traction, while the innocent majority of the local population bears the cost. The extremists have proclaimed allegiance to ISIS and have rapidly developed increasingly sophisticated military capabilities; Mozambique's poorly trained security forces have proven unable to vanquish the group. It is an insurgency on the advance. It has seized seizing entire towns and now controls considerable territory.

The insurgents, who have attracted foreign fighters and recently launched

attacks into neighboring Tanzania, have used horrific acts of terror—including systematic use of arson, murder, often including beheadings, and kidnapping—to force compliance with their aims. Their acts have effectively displaced more than 500,000 people in Cabo Delgado, creating a severe humanitarian crisis. In 1 week in November alone, more than 10,000 people fled to the port city of Pemba, many in rickety, unsafe boats. A significant of these internally displaced persons now languish in crowded, unsanitary conditions.

What can be done to solve this crisis? And what should be the role of the United States, which today appears to be retreating from Africa? This year has perhaps taught us more than any in recent memory that stability and security around the world can directly impact the stability and security of the United States. We have a sustained interest in helping to support innocent, suffering people and promoting stability.

The security aspect of the threat requires a security solution. However, the Mozambican security forces have demonstrated that they cannot effectively respond to this threat without assistance. It is clear that they lack proper training and equipment, and a substantial body of reporting has established that elements of these forces have frequently committed serious human rights abuses, as well as engaged in petty corruption targeting the local impoverished population. The Mozambican Government must take steps to ensure that state security forces are not only effective, but that they also engage in such a manner that earns the trust of the population they are charged with protecting.

The good news is that the international community has begun to respond. The U.S.'s counterterrorism coordinator recently visited Maputo to offer our assistance to the government. European countries have also pledged to assist with building Mozambique's security capacities. Any such counterterrorism support must include rigorous human rights training, as well as improvements in civil-military relations and effective intelligence-gathering. The government should also be pressed to reduce its reliance on local militias, who have even less training and accountability than government troops.

The humanitarian crisis also demands immediate action. Of the half million people who have been displaced, 41 percent are children. The provinces of northern Mozambique that host most of these newly displaced people are among the poorest in one of the world's least-developed countries and have little capacity to assist those affected by the crisis. In total, more than 1.3 million people in northern Mozambique are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and protection, according to the U.N. The international community must step up and fully fund